WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Original) A periodical dispensing device comprising:

a paper tray capable of retaining a horizontal stack of periodicals and comprising two sides, a rear push plate, a front upper block plate and a lower front toe;

a trap plate having a handle;

a blade assembly comprising a base, a pivot pin and a blade rod;

a periodical lifting blade that is pivotally attached to the trap plate by the blade assembly;

at least one cam attached to the paper lifting blade;

at least one cam track;

wherein the trap plate is capable of backward and forward motion;

wherein the cam is engaged with the cam track in a way such that when the trap plate is moved in the backward direction, the motion is transferred through the blade assembly to the blade and the engagement of the cam with the cam track causes the paper lifting blade to move in an upward and backward direction such that the blade frictionally engages a periodical at the front of the stack; and

wherein the engagement of a cam to the cam track causes motion transferred to the blade by forward motion of the trap plate to cause the blade to move first in a backward and then downward direction, thereby releasing the periodical at the front of the stack.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein a load is applied to the trap plate to create a bias in the backward direction.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the push plate has a load applied to it so as to bias it in the forward direction.

4. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the load is applied by means of a weight and a weight cable.

5. (Original) The device of claim 3 wherein the load is applied by means of a weight and a weight cable.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a dispensing chute.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing periodicals one at a time comprising:

horizontally stacking periodicals between a back push plate, a front block plate and a front toe;

applying force against the stack through the back push plate;

applying a blade using a horizontal motion to the front of the front periodical of the stack such that it frictionally engages a periodical at the front of the stack and pushes it upward so that the toe no longer holds the periodical in place in the stack; and

disengaging the frictional attachment of the blade so as to allow the front periodical of the stack to be released from said stack and thereby dispensed.